

Message Text

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MILITARY ADDEES FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, GW
SUBJECT: NRW/FDP CONVENTION CONFIRMS COHESION OF SPD/FDP
COALITION

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE NRW/FDP
EMPHASIZED THE STABILITY OF THE SPD/FDP COALITION IN BONN AND
DUESSELDORF AND NOTED THAT THE CHIEF OBSTACLES FOR THE CONTINU-
ATION OF THE FDP PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SPD IN HESSE HAVE BEEN
OVERCOME. LACK OF A PROGRAM MADE THE CDU AN UNINTERESTING
PARTNER, FDP LEADERS CLAIMED. YET THERE WAS A DARK HINT ABOUT
CONTACTS WITH THE NRW/CDU IN THIS FIELD. CONTROVERSIES OVER
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SCHOOL REFORM CONSUMED MOST OF THE CONVENTION'S TIME. REVISION
OF THE MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION STRUCTURE WAS ENDORSED. SINCE
THIS PROBLEM FINDS LITTLE INTEREST WITH THE COALITION PARTNER,
THE FACTION IS TRYING TO ENLIST THE SUPPORT OF THE CDU. END
SUMMARY.

2. ANNUAL CONVENTION OF NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA (NRW) ON

APRIL 23-24, 1977, ATTENDED BY 400 DELEGATES REPRESENTING 25,000 MEMBERS EMPHASIZED STABILITY OF THE SPD/FDP COALITION IN NRW AND BONN. FURTHERMORE FDP BUNDESTAG FACTION CHIEF WOLFGANG MISCHNICK STATED THAT WITH THE ELECTION OF HOLGER BOERNER AS HESSIAN SPD CHAIRMAN THE CHIEF DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN THE SPD AND HESSE HAD BEEN OVERCOME.

BUNDESTAG DEPUTY OTTO GRAF LAMBSDORFF, WHILE UPHOLDING THE SOCIAL/LIBERAL COALITION, HAD EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR THE HESSIAN FDP WHICH COULD CHOSE ONLY BETWEEN ALFRED DREGGER (CDU) AND RUDI ARNDT (SPD), I.E. BETWEEN THE PLAGUE AND CHOLERA.

3. HORST-LUDWIG RIEMER, FDP LAND CHAIRMAN AND NRW MINISTER OF ECONOMICS AND TRANSPORT, AND DR. BURKHARD HIRSCH, NRW MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR, STRESSED THE COHESION OF THE NRW COALITION. ACCORDING TO RIEMER A PARTY CONVENTION PRIOR TO THE NEXT NRW ELECTIONS (1980) WOULD DECIDE WHETHER THE FDP WOULD COMMIT ITSELF IN ADVANCE TO ANY COALITION. AT PRESENT THE CDU(S LACK OF A PROGRAM OF ITS OWN MADE IT AN UNINTERESTING PROSPECTIVE PARTNER.

4. AN INTERNAL DEBATE ON SCHOOL REFORM TOOK UP MOST OF THE TIME OF THE CONVENTION. UNABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE ISSUE, THE DELEGATES REFERRED THE PROBLEM TO THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE NRW PARTY WITH A RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH THE FDP LANDTAG FACTION. IN THIS FIELD THE FDP HAS ONLY SLIGHT DIFFICULTIES WITH THE COALITION PARTNER, BUT IS INTERNALLY SPLIT. REVISION OF THE MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE, DEAR TO THE FDP, WAS AGAIN ENDORSED BUT FINDS RELUCTANT IF ANY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUPPORT IN THE SPD. FACTION CHAIRMAN HANS KOCH REVEALED THAT HE HAD APPROACHED NRW/CDU TO ENLIST COOPERATION FOR A SOLUTION IN ORDER, AS HE SAID, TO ESTABLISH A BROADER BASE OF SUPPORT FOR THIS PROGRAM IN THE LANDTAG.

5. COMMENT: THINGS IN THE COALITION ARE NOT AS SMOOTH AS APPEARS ON THE SURFACE. THERE ARE CLOSE CONTACTS BETWEEN NRW/FDP FACTION CHAIRMAN HANS KOCH AND THE CDU NOT ONLY ON THE QUESTION OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT REFORM, BUT ALSO ON SCHOOL REFORM. ON THE LATTER COOPERATION WITH THE CDU IS ACCEPTABLE AT LEAST TO THAT GROUP IN THE FDP WHICH, LIKE THE CDU, WANTS TO PROCEED SLOWLY AND CAUTIOUSLY, BUT COLLABORATION WITH THE CDU ON MUNICIPAL REFORM IS CERTAIN TO ANTAGONIZE THE SPD. CDU OPPOSITION LEADER HEINRICH KOEPLER, TWO DAYS PRIOR TO FDP CONVENTION, ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO OVERTHROW THE NRW COALITION PRIOR TO 1980, WHICH WAS PUBLICLY RIDICULED AT THE CONVENTION. BUT IN A PRIVATE CONVERSATION KOCH HINTED DARKLY AT CONTACTS WITH THE CDU ON THIS QUESTION; UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES A COALITION CHANGE CANNOT ENTIRELY BE RULED OUT

EVEN PRIOR TO 1980, GIVEN SUFFICIENT AND CONVINCING CAUSE FOR
SUCH A STEP.DUX

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